



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process Overview

Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation
Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group

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Science and Policy

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

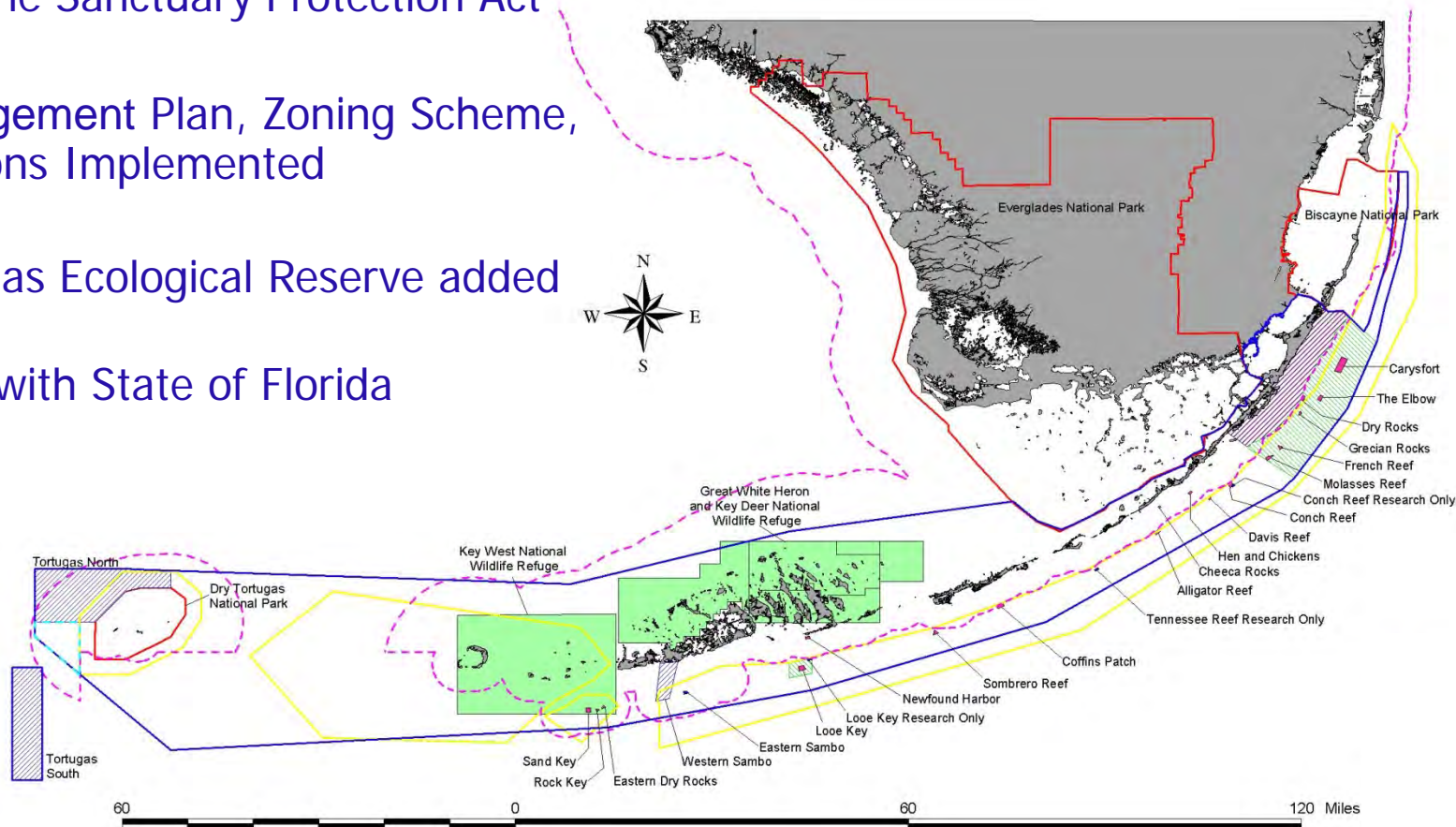


1990 - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

1997 - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

2001 - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added

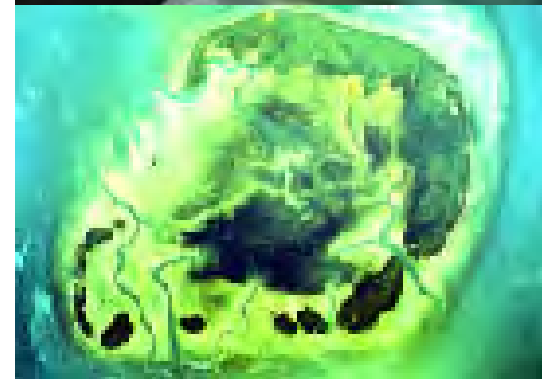
Co-Managed with State of Florida (DEP/FWC)



Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuges



- Key West NWR – First national wildlife refuge in Florida Keys – established in 1908
- Great White Heron NWR established in 1938
- Protected as Existing Management Areas and Wildlife Management Areas in sanctuary's zoning and regulations
- Update to Backcountry Management Plan: management agreement between State of Florida and USFWS

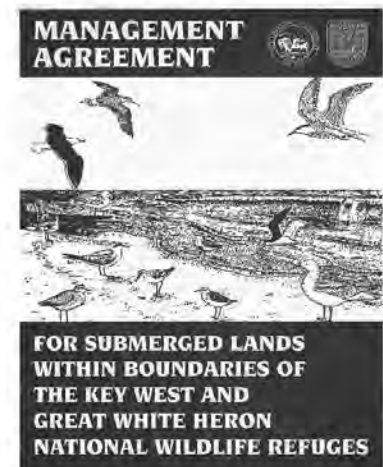


Why conduct the review?



- Community interest!
- Periodic evaluation and public input is good management
- Science shows we can make improvements in management
- Emerging threats – climate change, invasive species, new marine uses
- Requirements – federal law and state resolutions, action plans adopted in 2007

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan

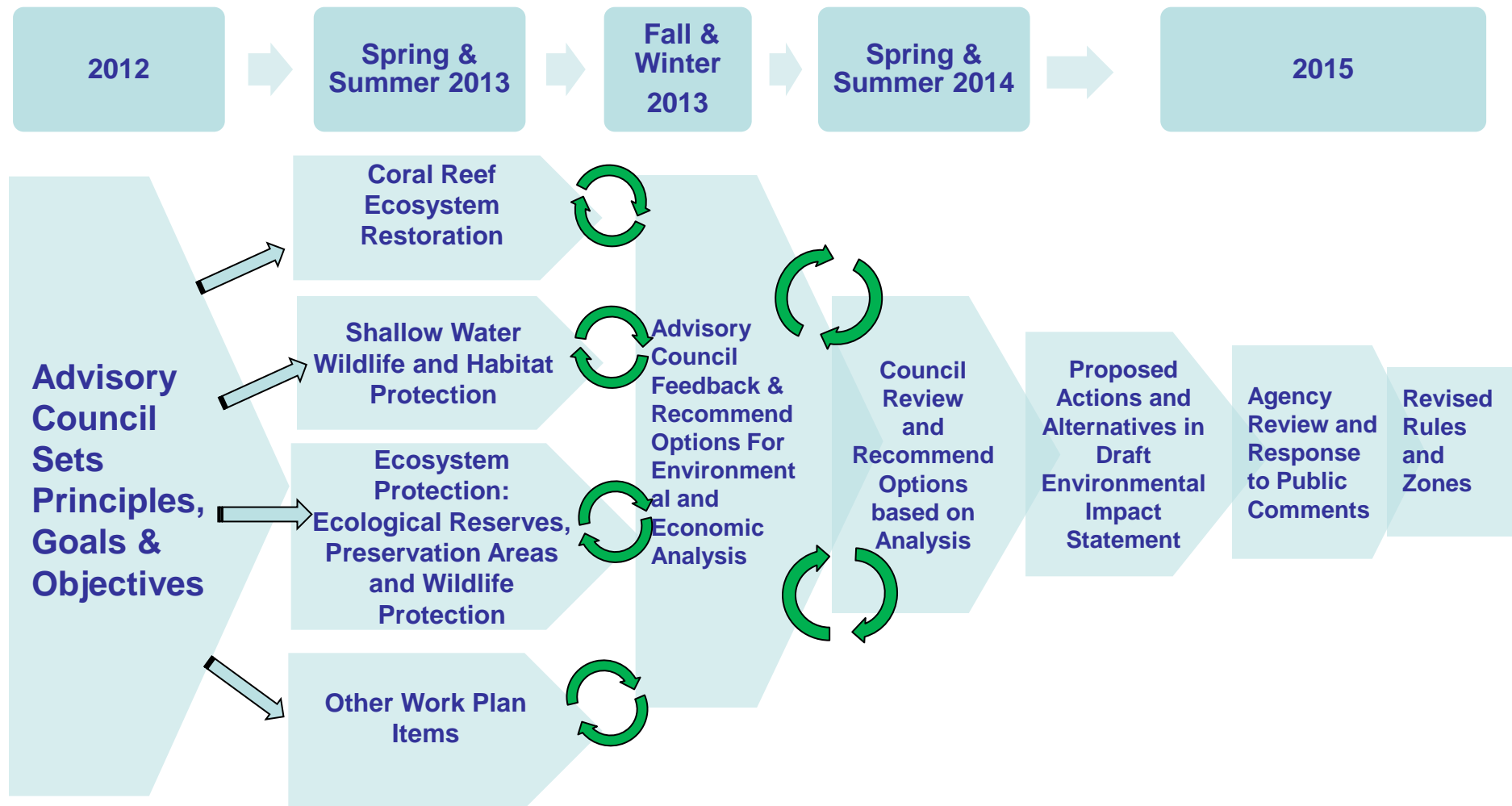


Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process Time-Line



- **September 2011** – Release of Condition Report
- **December 2011** – Sanctuary Advisory Council adopt Draft Goals & Objectives for Regulatory Review Process
- **April 2012** – Public Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Meetings
- **April-June 2012** – Public Scoping Meetings & Open Public Comment
- **December 2012** – Sanctuary Advisory Council adopt final Goals, Objectives & Principles & Work-plan for Regulatory Review Process
- **January-July 2013** – Sanctuary Advisory Council working groups meet
- **September 2013** – Working Group host regional community meetings
- **December 2013** – Sanctuary Advisory Council make recommendation on what should be analyzed for economic & environmental impact
- **Spring 2014** – Sanctuary Advisory Council review and make a recommendation for preferred alternatives with environmental and economic analysis.

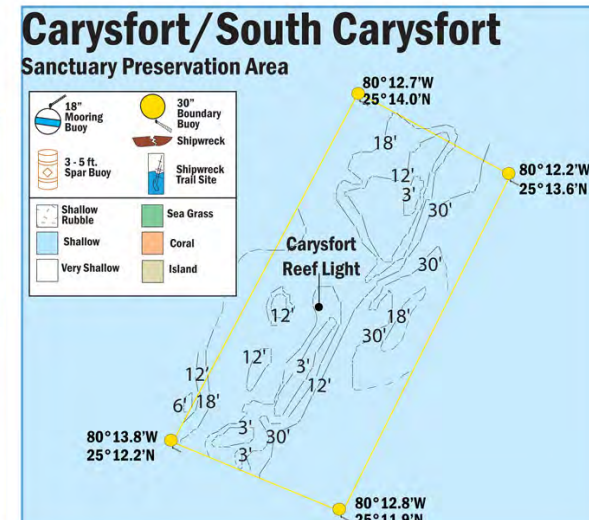
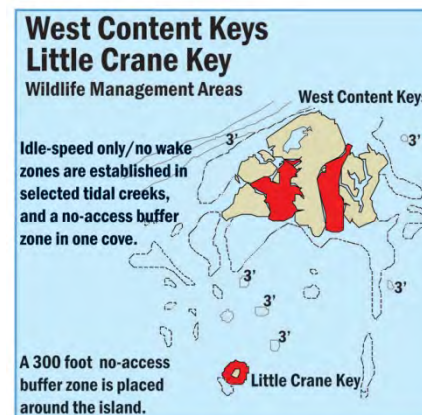
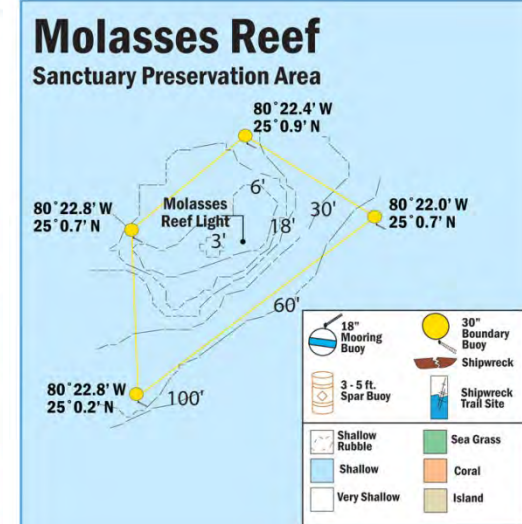
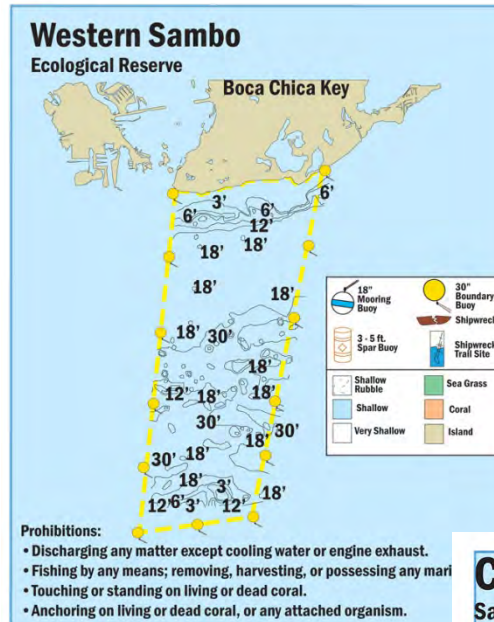
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline



Marine Zoning for User Conflicts and Resource Protection



- Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) and Ecological Reserves (ERs) – No Take Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) – Access and Boating Restrictions
- Existing Management Areas (EMA) – Previously Designated Zones / Regulations
- Special Use Areas – Research Only



What types of things do the Sanctuary and Refuge regulate via zoning?



- Spearfishing
- Marine Life / Aquarium Collection
- Fishing / Trapping
- Personal Watercraft
- Airboats / Waterskiing
- Vessel Speed / Wake / Motor
- Vessel Size
- Anchoring / Mooring
- Access
- Diving / Snorkeling



Sanctuary Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts



Community-based advisory group

Lead role in conducting review

Representing:

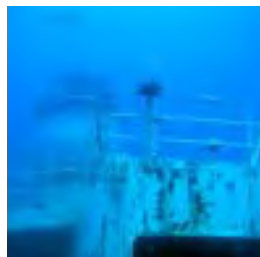
- Boating Industry
- Elected County Official
- Citizens at Large (3)
- Conservation (2)
- Research
- Education
- Tourism (2)
- Diving (2)
- Charter Fishing (2)
- Commercial Fishing (2)
- Recreational Fishing
- Submerged Cultural Resources
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



Sanctuary Advisory Council Work-Plan: Issues to be Addressed



- 3 Habitat, Zoning, & Issue Based Working Groups
- Adaptive Management & Permitting
- Artificial Habitats
- Boundary Modifications
- Personal Watercraft & Fishing Conflicts
- Water Quality
- Fishery Management Coordination



Working Groups



Sanctuary Advisory Council endorsed the following Working Groups:

- Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
- Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
- Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection



Ecosystem Protection Working Group Objectives



Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group: Objectives & Status



Ecosystem Protection Working Group Objectives



1. Review and evaluate existing reserves designated for protection of coral reef ecosystems.
2. Review current exceptions to regulations in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves.
3. Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.
4. Recommend new or modified ecological reserves to ensure protection of a diversity of resources:
 - Spawning aggregations
 - Full suite of marine flora and fauna

Cont.

Ecosystem Protection Working Group Objectives



5. Consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts associated with intense uses or seasonal ecological activities (i.e., nesting, breeding, spawning).
6. Ensure the FKNMS zoning scheme promotes sustainable use of the sanctuary resources and protects areas that represent diverse habitats as well as areas important for maintaining natural resources and ecosystem functions.

Ecosystem Protection Working Group Next Steps



1. Host series of regional meetings
 - September 23 – Key Colony Beach
 - September 24 – Key Largo
 - September 25 – Key West
 - September 26 – Key West
2. Hold Working Group Meeting
 - September 30 – Marathon Garden Center
3. Present update to Sanctuary Advisory Council
 - October 15 – Island Resort, Islamorada



Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: floridakeys.noaa.gov

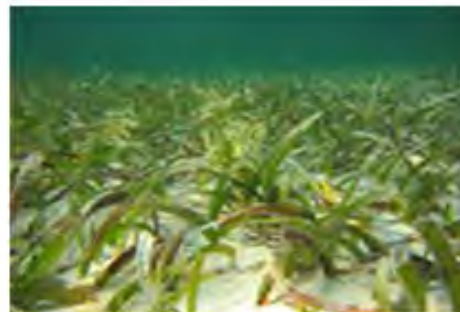


Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources:
http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review



Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
Coral health in the sanctuary has declined over the past several



Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group
Hardbottom communities and



Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group

Working Group Website: floridakeys.noaa.gov



- Objectives
- Members
- Schedule
- Notes
- Draft recommendations after they are made



- Home
- About Your Sanctuary
- Visit the Sanctuary
- Explore the Sanctuary
- Get Involved
- Management
- Advisory Council
- Marine Zones
- Sanctuary Science
- Maritime Heritage
- What's New

Search:

Search

- ☒ This Site
- ☐ All Sanctuaries
- ☐ All NOAA



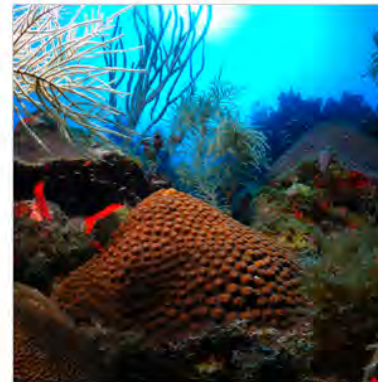
FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES | NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group



Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review



The sanctuary uses a strategy of marine zoning to protect and preserve sensitive parts of the marine ecosystem, while allowing activities compatible with resource protection. The Sanctuary's Condition Report and scoping comments identified a significant need to review current marine zones and decide what changes must be undertaken to meet the goals and objectives identified by the Advisory Council. While certain zones were established to allow areas of high ecological importance to evolve with minimal human influence, and others were set aside to reduce user conflict, additional areas may need to be considered to ensure long term protection of the natural resources.

Advisory Council Lead - Chris Bergh

Objectives

Members

Schedule

Notes

Draft Recommendations

Resources

Objectives

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- Review current exceptions to regulations in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves.
- Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.
- Recommend new or modified ecological reserves to ensure protection of a diversity of resources:
 - Spawning aggregations
 - Full suite of marine flora and fauna (i.e., seabird, marine mammal, turtles, seagrass, soft corals, hard corals)

Meeting Notes & Science Presentations



- Florida Keys Condition Report
- Managing for Resilience
- Assessing Reef Fish Change and Marine Reserve Dynamics
- Benthic Communities and Zone Performance
- Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations
- Performance Evaluations of Western Sambo Ecological Reserve



Advisory Council Lead - Chris Bligh

Objectives

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Schedule

Notes

Draft Recommendations

Resources

Meeting Notes

March

April

May

May 2

[Draft Agenda \(pdf, 30 kb\)](#)

[Meeting Summary \(pdf, 147 kb\)](#)

Other Materials:

[Process Flow Chart \(pdf, 210 kb\)](#)

[Assessing Reef Fish Change and Marine Reserve Dynamics \(pdf, 4.2 MB\)](#)

[Benthic Communities and Zone Performance \(pdf, 3 MB\)](#)

May 23

[Draft Agenda \(pdf, 30 kb\)](#)

[Meeting Summary \(pdf, 142 kb\)](#)

Other Materials:

[Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations \(pdf, 17.3 MB\)](#)

Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: floridakeys.noaa.gov

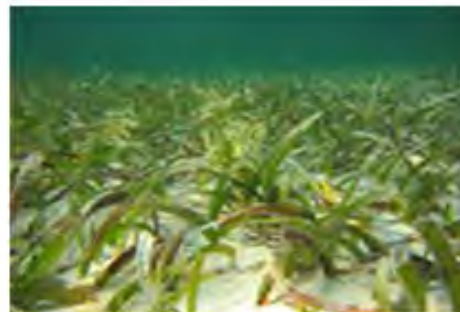


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Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group

Goal for Tonight:



1. Input on Working Group Objectives:

- evaluate existing marine zones,
- recommend zone modifications to ensure protection of diversity of marine resources,
- consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts, and
- ensure that marine zones promote sustainable use of resources while protecting diverse habitats and their ecosystem functions.

2. Region and site-specific input and information.